

REMARKS

This Amendment, filed in reply to the Office Action dated January 24, 2008, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. In the present Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1 and 2, and adds claims 4-9. No new matter is added.

I. Preliminary Matters

The Examiner did not indicate acceptance of the drawings filed with the application on June 20, 2003. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate that the drawings are accepted in the next Office communication.

Furthermore, Applicant editorially amends claims 1 and 2 to correct an obvious informality (i.e., typographical error in the word “recording”). Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments to claims 1 and 2 were made for reasons of precision of language and consistency, and do not narrow the literal scope of the claims and thus do not implicate an estoppel in the application of the doctrine of equivalents.

II. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, because the phrase “such as” allegedly renders the claim indefinite. In this Amendment, Applicant amends claim 1, as shown in the attached AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS section. In view of the self-explanatory amendment, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the Rejection.

Applicant respectfully submits that this amendment to claim 1 was made for reasons of precision of language and consistency, and does not narrow the literal scope of the claims and thus does not implicate an estoppel in the application of the doctrine of equivalents.

III. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Misawa. Applicant respectfully submits the following arguments in traversal of the Examiner's rejection.

Misawa discloses a digital still camera capable of recording images while in a recording mode, playing back images while in a playback mode, and playing audio while in a Digital Audio Player (DAP) mode (Abstract). One of these modes can be set as a priority mode (Abstract). During operation, if the battery power reaches the minimum power required to operate the camera in the set priority mode, the camera provides a warning to the user (Abstract).

With respect to claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that Misawa does not disclose, at least, "when the detecting device detects a voltage drop of the battery, simultaneously displays warnings about drops in the supply voltage according to various modes." In particular, in Misawa, a user can set a digital still camera to provide a warning when the voltage of the battery is less than the warning voltage of the one mode set as the priority mode (e.g., camera-recording, camera-playback, or DAP) (*see* Misawa at FIGS. 8-10). But Misawa does not disclose "simultaneously displaying warnings about drops in the supply voltage according to various [plural] modes," as recited in claim 1. At least for this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that Misawa does not anticipate claim 1.

With respect to claims 2-3, Applicant respectfully submits that they are patentable, at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 1, but also for their additionally recited features.

For example, with respect to claim 2, Applicant respectfully submits that Misawa does not disclose, at least, “simultaneously displaying warnings about drops in the supply voltage according to various modes... means simultaneously displaying the number of recordable images, the number of reproducible images and the number of images that can be taken in flash.” The Examiner alleges that Misawa discloses this feature (Office Action at page 3). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

In Misawa, a user selecting the “camera-recording priority” as the “battery priority mode,” can set a target number of images (Misawa at col. 6, ll. 30-65). During operation, when the device determines that the device does not have enough remaining battery to record the set number of images, the device warns the user that there is not enough battery power to record the set number of images (Misawa at col. 6, ll. 30-65). But Misawa does not disclose “displaying the number of recordable images which can be recorded” simultaneously with the remaining operations of claim 2. For this additional reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that Misawa does not anticipate claim 2.

Furthermore, with respect to claim 3, the claim describes calculation of a number of images that can be taken in a recording mode based on resistance and voltage values of the camera. The Examiner contends that col. 6 of Misawa teaches this feature. However, the cited portion relates to calculation of a voltage based on a number of images set to be recorded by the user. Applicant respectfully submits that this is the opposite calculation described by claim 3.

For this additional reason, Applicant respectfully submits that Misawa does not anticipate claim 3.

V. New Claims

Claims 4-9 have been added to further define the scope of the invention. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 4-9 are patentable, at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 1, but also for their additionally recited features.

For example, with respect to claim 5, Applicant respectfully submits that Misawa does not disclose, at least, “displaying the number of reproducible images which can be reproduced based on the voltage drop.” The Examiner alleges that Misawa discloses this feature (Office Action at page 3). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

In Misawa, a user selecting the “camera-playback priority” as the “battery priority mode,” can set the time over which playback is possible (Misawa at col. 6, line 66 to col. 7, line 1). When it is determined that the device does not have enough remaining battery to playback images for the set playback time, the device warns the user accordingly (Misawa at col. 7, ll. 4-14). But Misawa does not disclose “displaying the number of reproducible images which can be reproduced.” For this additional reason, Applicant respectfully submits that Misawa does not disclose claim 5.

Furthermore, with respect to claim 9, Applicant respectfully submits that Misawa does not disclose, at least, “calculat[ing] the allowable time of operation of each mode of the plurality of modes . . . and displaying these values.” Misawa does not even address providing the user with the allowable time of operation of any mode.

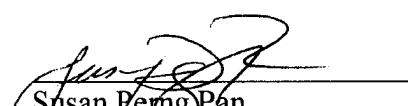
In particular, in Misawa, when the “battery priority mode” is set to “camera-playback priority,” a warning is provided when the device does not have enough remaining battery to playback images for a set playback time. However, Misawa does not display the operating time remaining for any other mode. Furthermore, even when the “battery priority mode” is set to “camera-playback priority,” Misawa only displays a warning when the time remaining is the set time remaining, and does not display the time remaining. For this additional reason, Applicant respectfully submits that Misawa does not disclose claim 9.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: May 23, 2008